

those to which I have just referred. There are signs that the old era of the profession as a guild for aristocrats and men with capital only, is passing away, and another "delusive goddess" will come to the ground. We shall hear more about truth and good solid cash principles, and less about virtue for its own sake.—I am, etc.,

Sutton, Oct. 17th.

G. S. WALTON, M.B., C.M.

THE ANTIVIVISECTIONIST PROPAGANDA.

SIR,—When in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of October 22nd you assert that I have made misleading statements by dragging the name of the Home Secretary into a letter, the facts of which have been obtained from a printed paper, you make a deliberate and gross imputation upon my good faith and truthfulness. Your assertion is false. Be good enough to inform me upon whose authority you venture to make it. Your statement as to my "implied charge of obtaining a licence, etc.," is also false. There is no implied charge in my letter at all. The plainly expressed charge, if charge you think well to call it, is made not by me but by Dr. Poore and Sir M. W. Ridley.

It is also false that the editor of the *Verulam Review* is in any way more "irresponsible" than the editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* or any other. Whilst as to my being "either ignorant of the terms of the licence or too careless to ascertain them," no one knows or ought to know better than yourself, first, that the licence is not in question; secondly, that all information both as to it and as to certificates, except that given in the report itself, is jealously withheld, and, thirdly, that so far from "impugning the good faith" of members of the profession, the very letter of mine which you have printed and commented upon, without apparently taking the trouble first to read it, is on the face of it written with the sole object of enabling me to deal with the Home Secretary's statement without risk of so doing.

Finally you inform your readers that when the inspector in his report states, as he does on 190 separate occasions (pp. 6—38), with regard to the experiments referred to in Sir M. W. Ridley's letter, that a certificate has been granted "permitting experiments without anaesthetics" he means a certificate expressly enjoining the use of anaesthetics. Means, that is to say, precisely the reverse of what he says.

Are we to understand you as suggesting that this method of interpretation must be applied to all Dr. Poore's statements?—I am, etc.,

THE EDITOR "VERULAM REVIEW."

Milford-on-Sea, October 24th.

* * The following copy of a letter received from the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, by one of the persons to whom the Editor of the *Verulam Review* addressed the lithographed letter which we published last week, is a sufficient answer to the first part of the letter printed above:

The Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, London, S.W.,
Whitehall, October 25th, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to acquaint you that it is not the fact, as alleged by the Editor of the *Verulam Review*, that he has ever stated that you have performed experiments on animals under anaesthetics, which under the certificates held by you in respect of such experiments you were authorised to perform without anaesthetics.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

KENELM E. DIGBY.

With regard to the second part, the fact appears to be, as we pointed out last week, that the letter of the Editor of the *Verulam Review* is founded upon a blunder due to his want of acquaintance with the terms of the Act, and of the licences and certificates granted under it.

It is stated that the female students of medicine in St. Petersburg are in future to wear a distinctive dress, of which the colour and the cut are prescribed. The ordinance is said to emanate not from the Ministry of Public Instruction but from the police.

MISS AGNES M. CLAYPOLE has been appointed Assistant in Microscopy, Histology, and Embryology in the Cornell University Medical College. Miss Claypole is the third woman appointed to a teaching position in Cornell University, but the first one in the Medical Department.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM RUTHERFORD ANCRUM, M.D., F.R.C.S.,

M.R.C.P.,

St. Leonard's Court, near Gloucester.

DR. ANCRUM, whose funeral took place a few days ago in the little churchyard near his home on the slopes of the Cotswold Hills, was for thirty years one of the strongest and ablest administrators of the county of Gloucester.

Born at Weston, near Bath, in the year 1816, he was at 15 years of age apprenticed to Mr. Griffiths, a medical practitioner in Wrexham, and had for a fellow pupil the lad who was afterwards to be so well known as Sir William Bowman.

At the expiration of three years he went to London, entering as a student at University College Hospital. There his student career was brilliant; and on taking the Membership of the College of Surgeons he was appointed House-Surgeon at the Hospital. What he was at this time is best shown by the fact that on the termination of his House-Surgeoncy Mr. Liston asked him to become his assistant, a post of honour which he held for three years. It is needless to point out what an inspiration this daily life and work with the great surgeon must have been to the earnest student; it made him a keen and skilful surgeon, and filled him with an enthusiasm for that branch of his profession which he carried with him when in 1843 he left England and settled in Mexico. Five years later he was appointed Surgeon to the Naval Hospital at Valparaiso, and in that city he soon acquired a very large practice. Eleven years later his active professional life was at an end; he returned to England, and in 1863 settled down in his home in Gloucestershire.

ONE WHO KNEW HIM WELL writes:

His great ability and earnestness of purpose were soon recognised in Gloucestershire. Twenty-seven years ago he became Chairman of the County Infirmary, accepting that post at a time when the memories of the Crimean winter and of the Indian Mutiny were still sufficiently fresh in English minds and hearts to enforce the infinite needs of human suffering; and accepting it, too, at a time when there was opening out to his profession a prospect such as none had even imagined. Into the management of that institution he brought method and order and financial soundness; and, ever working loyally and in full harmony and sympathy with its staff, he gave to the hospital all that was best in the profession to which he belonged, and from which he never disassociated himself, and all that was wisest and most helpful in its sister calling of nursing.

For many years, too, he was Chairman of the great asylums near Gloucester; and many a medical officer would gladly add his testimony to the value of his friendship with one on whose time, and power, and judgment he could ever rely, and from whom he was at all times certain to receive ready and sympathetic help.

Public work claimed his interest in other directions also, and he took always a prominent place; thus he was a member of many important Committees of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and later of the County Council, of which he was an Alderman.

Three years ago there came the warnings telling that the life-work was drawing to a close. Everything had to be laid aside, and the earnest public life to be exchanged for the quiet of the home. Into that home life we have no right to enter, but those who were privileged to share in it could tell of a character of genuine simplicity, and of almost womanly tenderness and power of sympathy. To the world around the heart was not thus openly worn, but in many a home in his own neighbourhood there are those to remember and to miss the daily acts of thoughtful kindness.

Into his public life he threw without stint or thought of self his great powers, his intense and unwearying energy, his strong hatred of everything that was untrue, unreal, or mean; his full and open sympathy with all that he held to be true and right. Long, indeed, will it be before the memory of such a life fades from the minds of those who shared his work and enjoyed and valued his friendship.